

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

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initiating a transaction using a protocol that directs packets based on physical location of a receiving device over a switching fabric that directs packets based on path routing information in packets, by establishing a virtual link partner relationship between a first component and a second component coupled by a switching fabric, wherein the transaction is used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by the first and second components, the power state of the first component transitions upon a transition of the power state of the second component.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switching fabric includes a pair of bridges.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the protocol is a Data Link Layer Packet protocol (DLLP) and the switching fabric is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) fabric, ~~and the transaction is used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by the first and second components.~~

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction is for a protocol communication that assumes a point-to-point connection between link partners.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein initiating includes:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

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initiating a transaction using a protocol that directs packets based on physical location of a receiving device over a switching fabric that directs packets based on path routing information in packets, by establishing a virtual link partner relationship between a first component and a second component coupled by a switching fabric, wherein the transaction is used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by the first and second components, the power state of the first component transitions upon a transition of the power state of the second component.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switching fabric includes a pair of bridges.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the protocol is a Data Link Layer Packet protocol (DLLP) and the switching fabric is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) fabric, ~~and the transaction is used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by the first and second components.~~

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction is for a protocol communication that assumes a point-to-point connection between link partners.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein initiating includes: